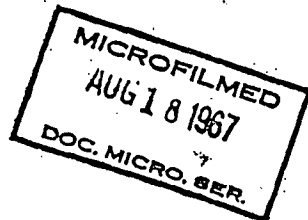


SECRET TELEPOUCH

DISP NO - EGMA-70519
FILE NO - NONE
DATE - 17 AUGUST 1967
INDEXING - NONE
MICROFILM - NO
TO - CHIEF, EUR
INFO - CHIEF OF STATION, GERMANY - CHIEF OF BASE,
FRANKFURT - CHIEF OF BASE, BERLIN - WUCAUK
FROM - CHIEF OF BASE, MUNICH
SUBJECT - 0 POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS TO UTILITY
ACTION - NONE
REF - NONE



1. COMMENTING ON CURRENT SPATE OF WEST GERMAN PRESS
ARTICLES IN REGARD UTILITY'S POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR, ON 16 AUGUST
ALIAS KUEHNE MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS -

A. NO FIRM DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE -

B. WORD ON TOP AUSWERTUNG LEVEL IS THAT CHANCELLOR
KIESINGER, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE TO WASHINGTON, LET IT BE
KNOWN THAT NO DECISION LIKELY BE MADE BEFORE 4-6
WEEKS -

C. KIESINGER PLANS USE CURRENT TRIP TO TALK TO
GENERAL WESSEL IN WASHINGTON REGARDING POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT -

D. AMBASSADOR SCHNIPPENKOETTER APPEARS TO BE THE
TOP CIVILIAN IN THE RUNNING -

REGARDING POSSIBILITY SUBJ. TAKEOVER E. REGARDING POSSIBILITY THAT ^{Swidbert} (ADMIRAL) POSER TAKE
UTILITY'S NUMBER ONE SLOT / THIS CARRIED IN FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE,
16 AUGUST / @KUEHNE SNORTED DISPARAGINGLY AND SAID "YOU CAN
BE ASSURED HE WILL NEVER GET IT" >

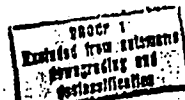
F. WHILE OUTSIDERS CLEARLY HAVE BEST CHANCE, IN-
SIDE MAN ALIAS ^{FOR UTILITY'S POSITION} ENDT STILL IN THE RUNNING AND IN "SOME

SECRET DISPATCH EGMA-70519 PAGE 1

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WAYS' ' BEST MAN FOR THE JOB, ALTHOUGH ' 'HANDICAPPED' ' BY

LACK OF SUBSTANTIVE DEPTH AND EXPERIENCE, ACCORDING TO @ KUEHN600>

2. [] COMMENT. KUEHNE SEEMED RATHER RELAXED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF GENERAL WESSEL TAKING COMMAND, BUT EXPRESSED LOW KEY UNCERTAINTY IF AMBASSADOR SCHNIPPENKOETTER WOULD BE THE PROPER MAN. THIS CONNECTION, HIS VIEWS ON MATTER NO DOUBT SHARPLY COLORED BY CONSIDERATIONS OF HIS OWN FUTURE. ALIASDEGENHARDT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RETIRE BY SUMMER OF 1969 - NOT LONG AFTER PROBABLE REPLACEMENT OF UTILITY - AND KUEHNE ASPIRES TO TAKE OVER FULL COMMAND OF AUSWERTUNG. THIS CONNECTION, AND GIVEN CLOSE PERXNAL TIES BETWEEN KUEHNE AND WENDT, CLEAR KUEHNE BE MOST COMFORTABLE IF WENDT TOOK OVER. CONVERSELY, AND GIVEN BACKGROUND OF SOME PERSONAL AND PROFEUONAL STRUGGLE BETWEEN KUEHNE AND POSER, A POSER ASSIGNMENT WOULD FACE KUEHNE WITH REAL PROBLEMS.

APPROVED - []

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SECRET DISPATCH EGMA-70519 PAGE 2